

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 2000 - FEBRUARY, 2001

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December 01, 2000 - February 28, 2001. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist.

The drought-breaking rains of late fall continued through the winter season, including several cold, wet fronts and another snowstorm in mid-January that dropped 4-6" on Panther Junction and the Chisos Mountains. Indeed, this has been the coldest and wettest winter season in a long time. Without a doubt, the resulting wildflower bloom on the desert floor is the most spectacular anyone can remember in the past ten years, if not much longer. Precipitation totals for the three month period as compared to the same period last year (+/-): Panther Junction: 0.95" (+0.24"). Chisos Basin: 1.82" (+1.13"). Rio Grande Village: 0.94" (+0.64"). Castolon: 0.81" (+0.38"). Persimmon Gap: 0.81" (+0.29").

It has been a very interesting season, not only for the birds that were seen, but also for what was not. For the first winter I can remember, there were no hummingbirds reported save one unidentified immature bird at the Barker House on 1/18. The green kingfishers that had been wintering for several years at the Rio Grande Village Nature trail disappeared right after December in the wake of one particularly hard cold front. For the most part, *Spizella* sparrows (chipping, Brewer's and clay-colored) were very reduced or absent this winter, with only a small group of field sparrows at Rio Grande Village for several weeks. Sparrows in general were lacking, but it was an exceptional winter for **sage sparrow**, which, with a little effort, could be found in most of the low desert. Similarly, **sage thrashers** were abundant this year, also in the lower desert areas. I can only speculate that a harder, colder winter farther north pushed these sporadically occurring species into our area in greater numbers than usual. All three bluebird species were present this winter, including large flocks of mountain bluebirds working the desert flats along the River Road. Another species that was very prevalent in greater than usual numbers at lower elevations this winter was spotted towhee. They could be found everywhere from the river to the Basin. In contrast, green-tailed towhees, normally a fairly common winter bird here, were almost non-existent. Whether there is a connection between the abundance of spotted towhees and the paucity of green-tails is also open to speculation.

Highlights for the winter season include a **least bittern** along the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail that was reported on two widely separated dates (1/20 and 2/03), a **Cassin's vireo** that was present at Cottonwood Campground 12/18 - 2/23, a **northern parula** in RGV campground on the Christmas count, a reported pine warbler near Pettits along River Road West on 1/21, and a wonderfully tame male **hooded warbler** at the entrance to the RGV Nature Trail that provided daily shows from 12/21 - 1/21 and also provided the first winter record for this species in the park. The most unusual find of the season was a **rufous-backed robin** at the RGV-full hook-up campground on 12/30. James and Krista Roche found the bird in a flock of American robins and were able to get some excellent definitive photographs. This is the first winter record and only the second or third accepted record for the park. Copies of the original report and photographs have been submitted to the Texas Bird Records Committee for review.

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DECEMBER, 2000 - FEBRUARY, 2001

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least bittern	1	1/20	RGV-nature trail	M&M Eastman	acc.
	1	2/03	RGV-Nature trail	Ed Donaldson C.Marken T.Ramsay	acc.
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	2/03	RGV-Nature trail	Greg Levandoski	acc.
	1	2/19	RGV-Nature trail	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1	2/23	RGV-Nature trail		acc.
Turkey vulture	1	1/30	??	D.Ohl,C.Ohl-Kolb	rare
Wood duck * Found dead	1m*	12/03	Ernst Tinaja	Greg Levandoski	rare
Merlin	1f	1/19	Rio Grande Vill.	B.Storey D.Williams	rare
	1f	1/13	Rio Grande Vill.	Levandoski/Powell	rare
	1m	2/19	Rte 12, MP 17	Mark Flippo	rare
Wild turkey	3f	1/02	Santa Elena Rd	Jim Bogue	rare
	3f	2/24	Cottonwood Camp.	L. Hayes	rare
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	12/20	Pettit's	Greg Levandoski	rare
Long-eared owl	12	2/03	Telephone Canyon	Greg Cratch	rare
Common poorwill	1	1/06	Santa Elena Rd	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	1/21	Dugout Wells	B. Storey D. Williams	rare
	1	2/07	Ross Maxwell Rd	Greg Levandoski	rare
hummingbird spp.	1*	1/18	Barker House	Greg Levandoski	
*possibly immature Anna's or ruby-throated.					
Green kingfisher	1f	12/01-31	RGV-Nature Trail	many observers	rare
	1f	12/29	RGV-Daniels Rch	Nick Block	rare
"Western" flycatcher	1	2/06	Pettit's	Greg Levandoski	?win Early?
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	12/30	Johnson's Ranch	Nick Block	spo.
	1	2/24	Black Dike	Mark Flippo	early

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Gray vireo	1	12/31	Rte. 13 MP 2	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	1/20	Rte. 13 MP 2	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	2/14	Old Ore Rd	Melissa Powell	rare
Cassin's vireo	1	12/18	Cottonwood Camp.	Melissa Powell	rare
	1	1/25	Cottonwood Camp.	B.Story D. Williams	rare
	1	1/29	RGV-campground	Ellen Mintzer	rare
	1	2/10	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	2/23	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Blue-headed vireo	1	1/12	Basin campground	Evelyn Delzell	rare
	1	1/21	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Western scrub-jay	1	12/4-5	Sam Nail Ranch	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	1/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	1/30	??	D.Ohl,C.Ohl-Kolb	spo.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	12/28	Colima/Boot Cyn	Nick Block	spo.
Carolina wren	2	1/21	Pettit's	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	1/30	RGV-nature trail	Melissa Powell	rare
Winter wren	1	12/28	Mouse Canyon	Mark Flippo	acc.
Mountain bluebird	15	12/09	River Road West	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	7	12/09	River Road East	Melissa Powell	spo.
	5	1/01	Pettit/Woodson's	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	6	1/10	Talley Rd	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	6	1/25	Hot Springs Rd	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	1/26	Boquillas Cyn Rd	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	6	2/01	Rte 11, Mp 6	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	12	2/11	Rte 11, MP 7	Greg Levanddoski	spo.
	3	2/11	River Road East	Melissa Powell	spo.
	24	2/11	River Road East	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	5	2/19	La Noria	Greg Levandoski	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Mountain bluebird	9	2/20	River Road East	Melissa Powell	spo.
	20	2/20	Rte 11, mp 14	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	25	2/21	River Road East	Tom VandenBerg	spo.
	50	2/25	River Road West	Mark Flippo	spo.
Rufous-backed Robin	1*	12/30	RGV-RV park	J&K Roche	?win

***Texas Review Species: Report/Photos to TBRC:Lockwood No previous winter records for park.**

Sage thrasher	1	12/16	River Road east	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	12/20	Pettit's	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	2	12/28	Panther Jctn.	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	12/29	Rte 12, MP 17	Flippo/Stinnet	spo.
	1	1/01	Rte 11, MP20	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	1/08	Glenn Spring Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	1/10	Terlingua Rch Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	1/16	Ernst Tinaja	Nancy Hannan	spo.
	1	1/20	Terlingua Rch Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	1/20	Rte 11 MP20	Melissa Powell	spo.
	7	1/27	Woodson's Rd	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	1/30	??	D.Ohl,C.Ohl-Kolb	spo.
	1	2/01	Rte 11, MP 7	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	2/01	Rte 11, MP 1	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	2/02	River Road East	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	2/05	Old Ore Rd North	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	2/06	Rte 11, MP 20	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	2/10	Rte 11, MP .5	Melissa Powell	spo.
	2	2/15	Enst Tinaja	Tom VandenBerg	spo.
	1	2/16	Paint Gap Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
European starling	1	1/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	spo.
Northern parula	1	12/29	RGV-campground	Nick Block	rare
Pine warbler	1	1/21	Pettit's	Greg Levandoski	acc.
Hooded warbler	1m*	12/21-1/21	RGV-Nature trail	many observers	?win
*First report 12/21 by Harvey Johnson. First winter record for park.					
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	12/30	River Road West	Nick Block	spo.
Field sparrow	1	1/02	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	spo.
	3	1/13	Rio Grande Vill.	Levandowski/Powell	spo.
	2	1/17	RGV-Daniels Rch	B.Storey D. Williams	spo.
	4	1/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	spo.
Sage sparrow	1	12/07	Old Ore Road	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	12/08	Paint Gap Road	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	12/16	Rte. 11 MP 10	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	12/19	Grapevine Hills	Greg Levndoski	spo.
	1	12/22	Rte. 13 MP 7	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	12/28	Rte. 11 MP 10	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	3	12/29	Rte 12, MP 17	Flippo/Stinnet	spo.
	1	12/29	Maverick Road	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	12/30	River Road West	Nick Block	spo.
	4	1/01	Harte Ranch Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.
	2	1/01	Rte 11, MP 20	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	1/24	Rte 11, MP 10	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	2	2/06	Harte Ranch Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.
	3	2/11	Rte 11, MP 9	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	2/11	River Road east	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	2/24	Black Dike	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	2/25	Harte Ranch Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.

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Lark bunting	4	12/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	spo.
	15	12/28	Grapevine Hills	Mark Flippo	spo.
	4	1/03	Terlingua Creek	Mark Flippo	spo.
	50+	2/26	Rte 12, MP7	Mark Flippo	spo.
Fox sparrow	4-5	12/5-14	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	spo
Song sparrow	2	12/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Harris' sparrow	1	2/10	River Road West	Kelly Bryan	acc.
Slate-colored Junco	1	12/02	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Kelly Bryan	rare
	1	12/12	Panther Junction	Mark Libby	rare

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2001

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period March 1 - May 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?spr" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the spring season.

On the heels of a wetter than normal winter, the Big Bend region entered into the spring season with a spectacular wildflower bloom and rainfall events scattered through the three month reporting period. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through May 2000 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 1.35 " (+0.21"), Chisos Basin; 3.54" (+2.47"), Rio Grande Village; 1.61" (+1.16"), Castolon; 0.87" (-0.12"), and Persimmon Gap; 1.51" (+0.75"). Interspersed between the rains were a series of cold front passages out of the north (early, mid and late March, and mid-April), as well as a dust storm that obliterated the horizon for three days (April 4-7). Experience has shown that, in years when there is a wet winter and a relatively wet and cool early spring, the migration of birds is not as "showy" as in drought years. The theory is that with abundant food, water, and cover available, the migration is dispersed and not concentrated in the usual migrant trap sites. Whatever the reason, this proved to be true again this spring season.

Noticeably reduced this spring were hummingbirds, warblers and sparrows. In the case of hummingbirds, there was such an abundance of natural food sources, particularly blooming ocotillo, that feeders were seldom visited and hummingbirds of any kind were hard to find. Around mid-April, a male Lucifer was pinpointed in Blue Creek at a small ocotillo forest, providing many birders with their only opportunity to observe this Big Bend specialty.

I have no explanation for the lack of warblers and sparrows. Even expected species that are normally abundant during the spring (yellow-rumped and Wilson's warblers, chipping, Brewer's, and vesper sparrows) were conspicuously absent during the season. Warbler highlights included two review species; a **slate-throated redstart** on April 25 at the top of the Pinnacles Trail, and a **rufous-capped warbler** on May 09 at Sam Nail Ranch. Both reports were reliable but await a final review from the TBRC. Unfortunately, both were also "one-day-wonders". There were no significant sparrow observations for the period, including the first spring in several years with no Baird's sparrow reports.

There were several reports of species currently listed as "hypothetical" this spring, and one new species added to the park list. A **Great Kiskadee** was present near the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail from April 29 through May 09, and was well documented with written reports, drawings and photos. On the strength of this documentation, Kiskadee will move to the main park list in the next revision of the park checklist. Two other hypotheticals, **American crow** and **Bobolink**, were reported (5/05 and 5/28 respectively), but both were single observations with little further documentation and remain, at this point, unconfirmed. **Eurasian collared-dove** made its first appearance in and around the park with five reports of at least four individuals between 4/09 and 5/16. With some reluctance, this exotic species will be added to the main park list in a future edition.

A single **dusky-capped flycatcher** was reported along the Laguna Meadow Trail very near to last year's first Texas recorded nest site, but so far no nesting activity has been observed. The area will be monitored to see if any juvenile flycatchers are observed.

Other highlights for the spring include a pair of gray hawks that established a nest near the south end of the Cottonwood campground. In spite of heavy use in the campground during the spring break and Easter holidays, they appear to have hatched at least one nestling. A pair of common black-hawk returned to Rio Grande Village for the sixth year in a row, utilizing the same nest as last year. As for the past four years, we cordoned off an area around the tree soon after the hawks arrived. As of June 6th, the hawks were still sitting on the nest, but there was no nestling activity observed. A pair of burrowing owls, anymore a rare species here, also set up a nest out in the Tornillo Flats area of the park. Another nice find was the first documented nesting of eastern bluebird in the park since 1972, perhaps not so surprising in the wake of the tremendous abundance of bluebirds this past winter. The pair utilized a cavity in an Arizona ash near the Rio Grande Village overflow area and hatched out four young by 4/08. Finally, tropical kingbirds returned to Cottonwood campground again. This year at least two pair are present and defending territory.

Peregrine falcons were monitored sporadically through the season, and will continue to be watched until fledging is completed. At this point there are nine potential eyries (compared to 6-7 last year). Due to lack of funding, there was no monitoring of black-capped vireos this season, but there is hope that an abbreviated survey will be conducted in late June.

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Double-crested Cormorant	1	3/23	Hot Springs	C.F. Zeillemaker	rare
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	3/21-24	RGV-Nature Trail	C.F. Zeillemaker	rare
	1	4/08	RGV-Nature Trail	Ellen McBride	rare
	1	4/15	RGV-nature trail	K&J Bowen	rare
	2	5/06	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1	5/07	RGV-Nature Trail	Ron Primack	rare
Snow Goose	??	3/22	RGV-campground	C.F. Zeillemaker	rare
Canada goose	10	5/08	RGV-Nature Trail	Ron Primack	acc.
Gray hawk	1**	3/25	Santa Elena Xing	Mark Flippo	unc.
	1	3/31	Cottonwood Camp.	Tom VandenBerg	unc.
**At last year's nest site.					
	2	4/01-30**	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	unc.
	2	5/01-31**	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	unc.
**Nesting in cottonwood near south end of campground					
	1	4/08	Rio Grande Vill.	Chris Melder	unc.
	1	4/19	RGV-group camp.	Mark Flippo	unc.
	1	5/06	RGV-overflow	Mark Flippo	unc.
	1	5/07	RGV-group site	Robert Quinn	unc.
Common black-hawk	1*	3/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Visitor report	rare
	1*	3/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/18	Rio Grande Vill.	C.F. Zeillemaker	rare
	1*	3/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Tom VandenBerg	rare
	2*	3/27	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare

* at same nest used in 2000 season. Area near nest closed off on 3/20 to prevent unnecessary intrusion.

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Common black-hawk	2	4/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2	5/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	1	5/15	Santa Elena Cyn	Lance Mattson	rare
Broad-winged hawk	1	4/26	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Jon Dunn	rare
	1	4/26	RGV_Daniels Ranch	T.Schwinghammer	rare
Crested caracara	1	3/10	Rte 12, MP 11	B&D Teesdale	acc.
	1	3/10	RGV-nature trail	B&M Wilkins	acc.
	1	5/01	RGV-group camp	B.Uebersetzig	acc.
Wild turkey	1-3f	4/01-30	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	rare
Eurasian Collared-dove	1*	4/08	RGV-overflow	Matt Shipley	??
	1*	4/10	RGV-overflow	Mark Flippo	??
	1*	4/19-20	Study Butte	Jan&Peter Wilshaw	??
	1*	4/27	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Robert Germany	??
	1*	5/16	Castolon	Frances Toldi	??
* Exotic, rapidly expanding range. First reports for park.					
Groove-billed ani	1	5/25	Cottonwood Camp.	Mike Stinson	rare
Flammulated Owl	1	5/16	Boot Canyon	Irvin Pitts	rare
Burrowing owl	1	3/29-4/1	Rte. 11, MP 10	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/15	Grapevine Hills	Peter Debes	rare
	2*	5/01-31	Rte. 11, MP 10	Many observers	rare
* Nesting					
Long-eared Owl	1	3/24	Rice Tank	Frank Deckert	rare
Acorn woodpecker	1	5/04	Rio Grande Vill.	Greg Lasley	unusual location
Eastern phoebe	1	3/22	RGV-full hook-up	Dean Greenberg	late
Brown-crested Flycatcher	1	4/08	RGV-overflow	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	4	5/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Kelly Bryan	rare

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Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1*	4/26	Laguna Mdw trail	Jon Dunn	acc.
	1*	5/01	Laguna Mdw trail	Tom VandenBerg	acc.
	1*	5/05	Laguna Mdw trail	D. Harris	acc.
	1*	5/24	Laguna Mdw trail	Mike Stinson	acc.

*Review species: reports sent to TBRC:Lockwood Accepted 6/5/02

Kingbird (Tropical/Couch's)	1	4/26	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Reiner	acc.
Tropical kingbird	1	4/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Richard Webster	acc.
	3	5/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	4	5/11	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	5	5/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Kelly Bryan	acc.
Couch's kingbird	1	5/10	RGV-group sites	Jan&Will Risser	rare
Great Kiskadee	1*	4/29	RGV-Nature Trail	P.Sherrell L.Lambertson	hyp.
	1*	4/29	RGV-Nature Trail	R.Wauer T.VandenBerg	hyp.
	1*	5/01	RGV-campground	Brian Gibbons	hyp.
	1*	5/03	RGV-Nature Trail	P&J Allgood	hyp.
	1*	5/04	RGV-Nature Trail	Ro Wauer Greg Lasley	hyp.
	1*	5/09	RGV-Nature Trail	Daryl Kress	hyp.

*Hypothetical for park: Reports submitted to TBRC. Photos: Pam & Jerry Allgood

White-eyed vireo	1	5/18	Hannold Draw	Mark Flippo	rare
Black-capped Vireo	1m	4/25	Blue Creek ½ mile	Dan Coleman	rare
	1m	4/26	Blue Creek 2 mile	Ro Wauer	rare
	1m	4/26	Blue Creek 1 ¼ mile	Dan Coleman	rare
Gray vireo	1	3/05	Rte 12 MP2-3	Melissa Powell	rare
	1	3/17	Pine Canyon Tr.	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	3/17	Window Trail	C.F. Zeillemaker	rare
	1	3/19	Burrow Mesa Pouroff	" "	rare

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Gray vireo	2	3/23	Boot Cyn/SW Rim	Greg Levandoski	rare
	2-4	4/17-30	Blue Creek	many observers	rare
	1	4/25	Upper Burro Mesa	Bill Reiner	rare
	1m	5/13	Cattail Falls	Kelly Bryan	rare
Yellow-throated vireo	1	4/02	Sam Nail Ranch	C.Curtis,G.Holland	acc.
Western Scrub-jay	1	3/27	Sam Nail Ranch	Tom VandenBerg	? spr.
American crow	1*	5/05	Fossil Bone	Robert Quinn	hyp.
*Hypothetical: Photos taken. Pending.					
Chihuahuan raven	12	4/03	Paint Gap Rd jctn	Ro Wauer	rare
	2	4/07	Santa Elena Cyn	Ellen McBride	rare
Purple Martin	1f	5/11	Sam Nail ranch	Jan&Will Risser	acc.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1f	3/20	Laguna Mdw.	C.F. Zeillemaker	spo.
	1m	5/04	Juniper Cyn.	Brian Gibbons	spo.
Carolina wren	1	3/06	Santa Elena Tr.	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	5/06	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Golden-crowned kinglet	2	3/20	Pinnacles Trail	Greg Levandoski	spo.
Eastern bluebird	2m,f	3/19	RGV-overflow	Rick Snider	rare
	3m,f	3/22-23	RGV-overflow	Dean Greenberg	rare
	2m,f**	4/08	RGV-overflow	Mark Flippo	rare
*carrying nesting material to cavity in AZ ash. No nesting records since 1972.					
** Confirmed nesting: 4 nestlings in cavity.					
	2mf	4/26	RGV-overflow	Ginny Herrcik	rare
Mountain bluebird	1	3/08	Maverick Road	Melissa Powell	rare
Townsend's Solitaire	1	5/04	RGV-Nature Trail	Greg Lasley	unusual location
Wood thrush	1	5/02	Pine Canyon	Brian Gibbons	rare
Tennessee warbler	1	5/11	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan&Will Risser	acc.

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Lucy's warbler	4m	3/25	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flipppo	loc.
		4/01-30	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	loc.
		5/01-31	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	loc.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	5/01	RGV-Nature trail	Brian Gibbons	acc.
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	4/28	RGV-Daniels ranch	Masy Howell	rare
	1m	5/10	Sam Nail Ranch	Jan&Will Risser	rare
	1m	5/12	Rio Grande Vill	Janet Jones	rare
Prothonotary Warbler	1	4/30	RGV-campground	Charles Warner	rare
	1f	5/04	Sam Nail Ranch	Jim Hines	rare
Ovenbird	1	5/01	Dugout Wells	Brian Gibbons	rare
Slate-throated Redstart	1*	4/25	Emory Peak trail	Phil Taylor	acc.
*Review Species: report submitted to TBRC:Lockwood Accepted 6/5/02					
Rufous-capped Warbler	1*	5/09	Sam Nail Ranch	Jan&Will Risser	acc.
*Review Species: report submitted to TBRC:Lockwood Sent to 2nd Circulation 6/5/02					
Scarlet tanager	1`	5/11	Cottonwood Camp	Mark Flipppo Jan&Will Risser	rare
	1	5/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Kelly Bryan	rare
Sage sparrow	3	3/08	Rte 13, MP 18	Melissa Powell	? spr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1m	4/28	RGV-Store	Neil&Dana Money	rare
	1m	5/01	RGV-Hook-ups	Brian Gibbons	rare
	2m	5/19	Boot Canyon Tr	Jeff Dillon	rare
	1m	5/25	Sam Nail Ranch	Mike Stinson	rare
Lazuli bunting	1m	4/30	Pine Canyon	Tom VandenBerg	rare
Bobolink	1*	5/28	Rio Grande Vill.	Sue Adair	hyp.

*Hypothetical for park: Reports submitted to TBRC.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Hooded oriole	1m	4/08	Hot Springs	John Doss	rare
	1m	4/21	Cottonwood Camp.	Karen Barker	rare
	1m	5/01	Tornillo Creek	Jim&Lynn Weber	rare
	1m	5/10	Cottonwood Camp.	Pete McLaughlin	rare
	2m	5/11	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/21	Hot Springs	Tom VandenBerg	rare
Cassin's finch	1m	4/11	Panther Junction	Tom VandenBerg	spo.
	1f	4/18	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2001

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period June 1 - July 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?sum" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the summer season.

Entering into July, the park physical science technician reported that this year (to date) is the second driest in the past 24 years, only 1998 being drier. Total rainfall for the Chisos Basin through July 1 was almost four inches below average and at Panther Junction nearly 3 inches below average. Though rain clouds formed most days during the reporting period, rainfall was sporadic and spotty. Heavy rains to the west and north of the park did drop large amounts of moisture (more than an inch and a half in one rainfall at Persimmon Gap in mid-July), but most of the park remained hot and dry. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 2000 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 2.34" (-2.72"), Chisos Basin; 4.32" (-3.03"), Rio Grande Village; 2.20" (-0.34"), Castolon; 1.18" (-1.59"), and Persimmon Gap; 3.72" (+0.94").

Hummingbirds that had been hard to find this spring began to show up in June and July as agaves bloomed and drier conditions drove them to feeders. Rufous hummingbirds began showing up around July 16 and at least one Calliope male was present at Panther Junction the final week of July. Blue-throats, black-chins, Lucifers and broad-tails, including many juvenile birds, were present in abundance at feeders and blooming agaves for much of the summer.

Dusky-capped flycatchers were reported again in the Chisos mountains through the spring and summer seasons but, unlike last year's first documented nesting record, there were no nesting reports this year.

The nesting common black-hawks at Rio Grande Village hatched one nestling sometime in mid-June, but after the first of July the chick was not observed or reported again. The two adults were observed near the nest through June and the first of July, but after that date left the area. One adult black-hawk has recently been observed in the Hot Springs area, but it is unknown whether this is one of the nesting hawks. It appears then, that for the second consecutive year, the black-hawks did hatch at least one egg, but failed to fledge any young.

At least two pairs of Tropical kingbirds nested again at Cottonwood Campground this year, with one pair of adults feeding young on July 7. There may be a second nest near site #17 but no confirmation has been made. This is the sixth consecutive year that tropical kingbirds have been present at Cottonwood.

TPWD Researcher John Marsh performed a one week survey (June 25 - July 1) of Black-capped vireos in the park. He located 10+/- birds (7 males, 3 females) and 2 nestlings. Two adult vireos were observed feeding brown-headed cowbirds. Unlike last year when cowbirds were noted in all survey areas, including those where they had not been previously observed (Pine and Juniper Canyons), this year there were none observed in Pine and Juniper Canyons. The latter area was the most productive for vireos.

Monitoring of Peregrine falcons revealed 6 active eyries (compared to 9 last year) with 6 known fledglings (as compared to 13 last year). It is important to note that, due to lack of funding and personnel, this year's peregrine monitoring was severely curtailed, thus the number of active eyries and fledglings reported is probably low.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2001

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
American White pelican	4	6/02	Downstream Boq. Cyn. River Mile 788.5	Michael Ryan	?sum
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	6/07	RGV-Nature Trail	Rich Kostecke	acc.
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1imm	7/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Victor Emanuel Barry Zimmer	rare
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	6/25	Laguna Mdw. Tr.	John Maresh	rare
Gray hawk	1	6/07	Rio Grand Vill.	Rich Kostecke	unc.
	1	6/25	Santa Elena Cyn	Tom Painting	unc.
	1	6/27	RGV-Store	John Maresh	unc.
	1	7/20	RGV-Berkeley Hse.	Tommy Moore	unc.
Common black-hawk	1*	3/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Visitor report	rare
	1*	3/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/18	Rio Grande Vill.	C.F. Zeillemaker	rare
	1*	3/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Tom VandenBerg	rare
	2*	3/27	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2*	4/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2*	5/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2*	6/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
* at same nest used in 2000 season. Area near nest closed off on 3/20 to prevent unnecessary intrusion.					
	3**	6/22	Rio Grande Vill.	Anthony Floyd	rare
	3**	6/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
** Pair with nestling.					
White-tailed hawk	1	6/10	Grapevine Hills	Walkers	acc.
Wild turkey	2	7/22	Cottonwood Camp	Kerry Jackson	rare
Common ground-dove	6-12	6/??	Various areas??	Rich Kostecke	rare
	3	6/22	Rio Grande Vill.	Anthony Floyd	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Groove-billed ani	1	6/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Gary Clark	rare
	1	7/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Victor Emanuel Barry Zimmer	rare
Burrowing owl	1	3/29-4/1	Rte. 11, MP 10	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/15	Grapevine Hills	Peter Debes	rare
	2*	5/01-31	Rte. 11, MP 10	Many observers	rare
	1	6/10	Rte. 11, MP 10	Rich Kostecke	rare
* Nesting					
Calliope Hummingbird	1m	7/28-31	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1*	4/26	Laguna Mdw trail	Jon Dunn	acc.
	1*	5/01	Laguna Mdw trail	Tom VandenBerg	acc.
	1*	5/05	Laguna Mdw trail	D. Harris	acc.
	1*	5/24	Laguna Mdw trail	Mike Stinson	acc.
	1*	6/06	Pinnacles trail	Michael Duffy	acc.
	1*	6/08	Laguna Mdw trail	Rich Kostecke	acc.
	2*	6/21	Boot Canyon	John O'Brien	acc.
	2*	6/21	Boot Canyon	Jukka Jantunen Amolie Rousseau	acc.
	1*	6/22	Laguna Mdw trail	Anthony Floyd	acc.
*Review species: reports sent to TBRC:Lockwood Accepted by TBRC: 7/02 (6/6-21)					
Brown-crested Flycatcher	2	6/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Anthony Floyd	rare
Tropical kingbird	1	4/29	Cottonwood Camp.	Richard Webster	acc.
	3	5/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	4	5/11	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	5	5/13	Cottonwood Camp.	Kelly Bryan	acc.
	1	6/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Rich Kostecke	acc.
	2	6/22	Cottonwood Camp.	Anthony Floyd	acc.
	5*	7/07	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Adams	acc.

* Adams reports 2 adults, 3 fledglings

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Couch's kingbird	1	6/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Rich Kostecke	rare
	1	6/22	Cottonwood Camp.	Anthony Floyd	rare
Black-capped Vireo	+/- 10	6/25-7/01	See summary below	John Maresh	rare
Carolina wren	1	6/08	Hot Springs	Rich Kostecke	rare
American robin	1	6/26	RGV-Store	Tom Painting	?sum
European starling	6	6/22	Cottonwood Camp.	Anthony Floyd	?sum
Lucy's warbler	2-3	6/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Rcih Kosteck	loc.
	1m	6/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mike Overton	loc
Golden-cheeked Warbler	1m	7/28	Boot Springs	Luc Lens	acc.*
*Unconfirmed.					
Black&White warb.	1	7/15	Sam Nail Ranch	Caroline Ohl-Kolb	early
Worm-eating warb.	1	7/17	Sam Nail Ranch	Jim Hines	early
Northern Waterthrush	1	7/29	Basin-Oxid. Ponds	Laura Southwick	rare
Indigo bunting	1	6/05	Basin Oxid. Ponds	Mark Flipppo	rare
	1	6/26	Window Trail	Tom Painting	rare
	1	6/28	Window Trail	Gary Clark	rare
	1	7/09	Window Trail	Sarah Bourbon	rare
Red-winged Blackbird	2	6/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Anthony Floyd	acc.
Great-tailed Grackle	1	6/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Rich Kostecke	rare
Red Crossbill	1	6/22	Boot Canyon	John O'Brien	? sum

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2001

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period August 1 - November 30. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?fall" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the fall season.

In the summer report it was noted that the Big Bend region was experiencing the second driest year in the past 24, a pattern that seemed to be breaking with some sporadic, but heavy, showers in certain areas of the park during mid-July. That sporadic and spotty rainfall pattern however, carried into August, with the Chisos Mountains and Panther Junction getting over two inches of rain, while the rest of the park at lower elevations baked in the late summer heat. September and October dried up and remained very warm, unlike last year at the same time, when cold temperatures and rain and snow signaled the onset of a unusually cold and wet winter. This general warm and dry condition continued into early November, to be broken finally on November 10-11, with the passage of a cool, moist front. Winter arrived, perhaps only briefly, on November 28, with a very cold and wet front that dropped snow at all elevations in the park, even down at Rio Grande Village, and lowered temperatures down into the teens. Overall then, the fall season has been mild and dry, leaving the region in its third driest year in the past 25 - only 1977 and 1989 were drier. A comparison of current year to date precipitation with ytd totals through November 2000 (+ or -) graphically shows the return to "normal" dry conditions from the unusually wet fall/winter of the previous year: Panther Junction; 7.65" (-5.70"), Chisos Basin; 9.67" (-6.03"), Rio Grande Village; 3.36" (-6.32"), Castolon; 2.36" (-7.64"), and Persimmon Gap; 5.19" (-3.61").

As compared to last fall season, we have not seen any initiation of another montane invasion this year. Indeed, there have been no reports of any unusual woodpeckers or corvids (with the exception of a lone Western Scrub Jay), no increased numbers of thrushes or mimids, and surprisingly, no finches (Cassin's nor crossbills). Also absent this year were the green kingfishers that had been around the Rio Grande Village nature trail for several fall seasons, and sparrows in general have been markedly diminished so far.

Two first fall records occurred this season for the park; a **white ibis** that was photographed on the "Lower Canyons" stretch of the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River on September 9, and an immature Mississippi kite observed the next day at Rio Grande Village. The latter report follows on a somewhat unusual number of immature Mississippi kites moving through the area between late June and mid-August.

The milder weather this year has been conducive to lingering hummingbirds, with juvenile Lucifers holding on at feeders until mid-October, and at least one, possibly two, immature black-chins that are still present, in spite of the hard cold and snow of late November. An immature Anna's male, present since late October, also toughed out the snow and cold and is providing a great show of plumage change as the season progresses.

Two intriguing, and apparently independent, reports of a female **olive warbler** in the high Chisos in early August made their way to the park through various sources. The first report came to the park via at least three, possibly four, different people, and well after the reported date of observation. Unfortunately, there were no details with the report. In the normal course of things a report like this, with no details, after the fact,

and lacking a traceable reporting party, would have been sent to the "dead" file. Giving pause though, was the second report that came in, also third-hand, and also after the reported date of observation. This one contained details and a traceable reporting party. According to Pueppke, the second observation lasted only about three seconds and was not 100% definitive, although he did well in documenting what he was able to see in that brief time. The two reports together are intriguing but, because there are no other documented observations following up and because of the lack of supporting details, the reports at this time are unconfirmed. For the record, there is only one accepted olive warbler report for Big Bend National Park (May 3, 1991).

Other interesting, but unconfirmed warbler reports include two reports of golden-cheeked warbler in the Chisos, and a **red-faced warbler** at the top of the Pinnacles Trail. Interestingly, these three observations all came in the same relative timeframe as the olive warbler reports. All five reports have gone to the Texas Bird Record Committee for review.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2001

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least bittern	1imm	9/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1imm	7/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Victor Emanuel Barry Zimmer	rare
	1imm	8/03	RGV-Nature Trail	Richard Etheridge	rare
Tri-colored heron	1imm	9/10	RGV-Nature Trail	L.Karr,M.Knipfer	rare
	1	10/01	Rio Grande Vill.	E.T. Norris	rare
White Ibis	1*	9/09	Lower Canyons River mile 746	T.VandenBerg Michael Ryan	?fall
* Photos: First documented Fall season record.					
Canvasback	2m,f	10/27	Rio,east boundary ??		spo.
Mississippi Kite	1imm*	9/10	Rio Grande Vill.	L.Karr,M.Knipfer	?fall
* First fall record					
Gray hawk	2	9/4-5	Cottonwood Camp.	James Hand	rare
	1	9/07	Cottonwood Camp.	C&D Allen	rare
Common black-hawk	1	8/08	Hot Springs	Glenn Curetan	rare
Broad-winged Hawk	1	8/19	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Wild turkey	2imm	9/4-5	Cottonwood Camp	James Hand	rare
Virginia rail	1imm	10/13	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Band-tailed Pigeon	2	9/18	Chisos-NE Rim	J.Fenstermacher	spo.
Lucifer Hummingbird	several juv.	10/11-27	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	late
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	8/5-19	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	8/18	Panther Junction	Tom VandenBerg	rare
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1imm	11/01-11/30	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	late
Anna's Hummingbird	1imm	10/27-11/30	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Calliope Hummingbird	1m	7/28-8/07	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	11/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.
Eastern kingbird	1	9/03	Dugout Wells	James Hand	rare
	1-2	9/10	Rio Grande Vill.	L.Karr,M.Knipfer	rare
Gray vireo	1	10/16	Basin sewage pond	Chris Runk	rare
Western Scrub-jay	1	10/14	Cattail Falls	Dale Ohl	rare
Carolina wren	1	8/12	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	10/18	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	10/22	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1m	11/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.
Eastern bluebird	2m,f	9/10	Rio Grande Vill.	L.Karr,M.Knipfer	?fall
Veery	1*	9/10	Pine canyon	L.Karr,M.Knipfer	?fall
* Unconfirmed. Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Possible confusion with rufous-backed (Pacific) race of Swainson's thrush???					
Sage thrasher	1	9/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Tom VandenBerg	spo.
Olive warbler	1f*	8/04	Chisos Mtns??	Nathan Pipelow	?fall
	1f*	8/05	Boot Canyon	David Pueppke	?fall
* Review Species: First report with no details. 2nd report a brief observation Both unconfirmed. To TBRC:Lockwood Not accepted by TBRC - 8/03					
Black-throated Blue warbler * Unconfirmed	1m*	10/08	Santa Elena Cyn	P. Kiep	acc.
Golden-cheeked Warbler	1m*	7/28	Boot Springs	Luc Lens	acc.
	1m*	8/03	S. Rim Trail	Daniel Jones	acc.
* Unconfirmed: Reports to TBRC.					
Northern Waterthrush	1	9/09	Cattail Falls	L.Karr,M.Knipfer	rare
Red-faced warbler	1*	8/03	Pinnacles Trail	Daniel Jones	spo.
*Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood Accepted by TBRC 7/02					

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Field sparrow	1	10/13	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Roxanna Rose	rare
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	10/19	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Chris Runk	rare
Indigo bunting	1imm	8/31	RGV-Daniels Ranch	James Hand	acc.
	1m	9/05	Santa Elena Cyn	James Hand	acc.
	1imm	10/15	Basin sewage pond	Chris Runk	acc.